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LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan concerning the serious deterioration of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) L. KAYUMOV
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Tajikistan to the
United Nations

Annex

Statement from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border has deteriorated seriously in recent days. Armed units from the intransigent wing of the opposition, acting from the provinces of Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, have been trying to wreck the process for the normalization of the situation in the Republic. They have been carrying out unwarranted operations against divisions of the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of the Interior of Tajikistan and against soldiers of the Russian Federation's Frontier Troops. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan consider this new outbreak of violence, occurring at a time when preparations are under way for the third series of inter-Tajik talks and as the general referendum on the new constitution for the Republic of Tajikistan and general presidential elections draw near, is in no way conducive to the political settlement which seeks to restore peace and harmony in Tajik territory. The shelling and artillery raids launched from the territory of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which have become more frequent in recent days, and the dispatch to Tajik territory of units of opposition fighters with instructions to commit acts of banditry against the peaceful population, attest to the true intentions of the anti-Government forces, namely, to carry out their criminal ambitions even though they say they are prepared to negotiate. The increasing tendency to heighten the climate of fear by acts of sabotage, hostage-taking and, above all, by acts of terrorism directed against the peaceful population, the intelligentsia and members of the Government is extremely disturbing in this connection. The escalation of military operations is increasingly threatening. After having carried out initial artillery fire on 17 and 18 August, an armed group from the Tajik opposition, numbering some 200 people, and supported by foreign mercenaries, approached what is called the Kulyab front to launch military operations, the aim being to seize a frontier post. At the same time, this group carried out direct shelling on a wide front, of troop emplacements and frontier posts. The frontier guards were forced to engage in combat in order to prevent the group from penetrating into the territory of the Republic. During the fighting, which is still going on, the valiant defenders of the southern frontiers of the Commonwealth of Independent States bravely and resolutely fought off the desperate efforts to penetrate the territory of Tajikistan, and they are maintaining their positions. Some people have been killed and others wounded. In cooperation with the units and divisions of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Security of the Republic of Tajikistan the Russian Federation's frontier troops will continue to take energetic steps, using all troops and all equipment to put an end to hostilities on the border, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The intransigent wing of the opposition bears full responsibility for the consequences of the escalation of violence, the pointless victims, the mothers' suffering and the orphan's tears. Considering the fundamental interest of the country, the political authority of the Republic, which is taking steps that really inspire confidence, is entitled to expect its opponents to do the same. It considers, furthermore, that the opposition's reliance on force and the response that this necessitates may be fraught with

unforeseeable consequences for the stabilization process. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, expressing the wish of the population, declare that in all responsibility, they remain determined to continue to seek a solution to the problem, based on peaceful talks since, in their view, there is no other alternative. In this same spirit, attaching the highest importance to the mission of Mr. Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan express their confidence in the continuation of his action which has a noble goal: the restoration of civilian peace and harmony on Tajik territory which has suffered too much. The continued importance given to a peaceful settlement of the problems, which is the unswerving position of the political authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan, is not a sign of weakness, but reflects a wish to avoid bloodshed and suffering. In Tajikistan, it is hoped that friendly nations and the international community as a whole, conscious of the efforts to settle the conflict by force and the irresponsible actions of the anti-people forces, will give effective support to the action carried out by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the Republic to reach a peaceful settlement of the problem.